

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01051 210535Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /068 W

----- 113834

R 210330Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0986

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1051

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO MCCONAUGHY DEPARTURE, UNGER ASSIGNMENT

1. SUMMARY: TAIWAN PRESS WARMLY HAILED UNGER NOMINATION AS CLEAR SIGN US TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC DESPITE NORMALIZATION WITH PRC. PAPERS UNIFORMLY PRAISED AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROC-US FRIENDSHIP DURING HIS UNPRECEDENTED TENURE AND DESCRIBED AMBASSADOR UNGER AS TOP FLIGHT PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT AND CONSCIENTIOUS ROC SUPPORTER AND FRIEND. END SUMMARY.

2. TAIWAN PRESS GREETED NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR UNGER TO SUCCEED AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY WITH UNIFORM ENTHUSIASM AND PRAISE FOR BOTH MEN. ALL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FEB 16 AND 17 CARRIED CNA-AP AND CNA REPORTS STRESSING THAT "APPOINTMENT OF UNGER, ONE OF STATE DEPTS TOP EXPERTS ON ASIAN AFFAIRS, ENDED LONG PERIOD OF SPECULATION ABOUT US INTENTION TO APPOINT SUCCESSOR TO MCCONAUGHY. STATE DEPT OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SAID THERE WAS NEVER ANY REASON TO THINK TAIWAN POST WOULD BE LEFT VACANT AFTER MCCONAUGHY STEPPED OUT."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01051 210535Z

3. LATER REPORTS WENT INTO GREATER DETAIL, NOTING COMMENTS OF DEPT SPOKESMAN, ROC AMBASSADOR SHEN, AND DEPT OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR UNGER WAS DESCRIBED AS "ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED AND ABLE OF US DIPLOMATS" AND HIS APPOINTMENT WAS "A VERY GOOD SIGN" ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR SHEN. DEPT OFFICIALS WERE QUOTED AS POINTING OUT APPOINTMENT IS "AMPLE PROOF WASHINGTON VALUES TIES WITH TAIPEI, INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC DESPITE DESIRE TO 'NORMALIZE' RELATIONS WITH PEIPING REGIME." REPORT ALSO NOTED SENATE CONFIRMATION EXPECTED TO BE "FORMALITY."

4. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, LIEN HO PAO (LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY HERE) AND KMT-OWNED CHUNG YANG JIH PAO EXPRESSED PROFOUND RESPECT FOR MCCONAUGHY'S UNPRECEDENTED TENURE IN TAIPEI AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS IN CONSOLIDATING ROC-US RELATIONS THROUGH TIRELESS PROMOTION OF AMERICAN BUSINESS AND TRADE, AND THROUGH EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH IN ROC DURING TIME OF INTERNATIONAL ADVERSITY. CALLING HIM "MODEL AMERICAN DIPLOMAT", LIEN HO PAO ADDED, "PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE UNWILLING TO PART FROM SUCH AN AMERICAN FRIEND."

5. IN SAME EDITORIAL, LIEN HO PAO STATED THAT CURRENT "DEADLOCK" IN US-PRC RELATIONS OFFERS "MOST FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR PROMOTION OF SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS". CALLING UNGER "MOST OUTSTANDING DIPLOMAT" AND "NOTED EXPERT ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN PROBLEMS", LIEN HO PAO PREDICTED "FUTURE SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL BECOME EVEN CLOSER THAN BEFORE." LIEN HO PAO ALSO REFERRED TO FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN UNGER AND FORMIN SHEN WHEN BOTH SERVED IN BANGKOK AND EXPRESSED VIEW THIS FRIENDSHIP WOULD MAKE UNGER'S ASSIGNMENT HERE ALL THE EASIER AND MORE PLEASANT.

6. PRESTIGIOUS CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO FEB 17 REPORTED THAT "ALL LEGISLATIVE YUAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY APPROPRIATE CHOICE WHICH DEMONSTRATES USG ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIONS WITH ROC IS CLEARER THAN BEFORE." IN SECOND EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT, CHUNG YANG JIH PAO FEB 19 NOTED THAT DESPITE TWO YEARS OF TESTING, ROC-US FRIENDSHIP HAS REMAINED CORDIAL WITH "POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOPING FROM COMPLICATING TRANSFORMA-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 01051 210535Z

TIONS TO CLARITY." PRUDENT US HANDLING OF CHINA POLICY "PROVES THAT EVEN IN ITS EFFORT TO SEEK CHANGES, THERE ARE STILL ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES AND STEADY STEPS....WE HAVE MORE REASONS, THEREFORE, TO BELIEVE THAT AFTER SERIES OF CRISES AND TESTS, SINO-US RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING ON NORMAL COURSE."

7. COMMENTING ON WHAT IT SAW AS CURRENT US-PRC COOLNESS,

CHUNG YANG JIH PAO POINTED OUT THAT "ROC-US RELATIONS AND US-PEIPING CONTACTS DEFINITELY ARE NOT PARALLEL DEVELOPMENTS." WHILE LATTER AFFECTS ROC INTERESTS, "OUR TRADITIONAL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US ARE BASED ON STRONGER FOUNDATION WHICH CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH CHANGEABLE POLICIES OF PEIPING REGIME....HATE AMERICA TODAY AND OPPOSE HEGEMONY TOMORROW." EDIT CONCLUDED THAT WITH ROC-US RELATIONS NOW STRENGTHENED, ROC WILL "DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CRUSH THE ENEMY CONSPIRACY OF DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN THE ROC AND ITS FRIENDS."

8. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT SEPTEL REGARDING IMPACT OF ANNOUNCEMENT.
MCCONAUGHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI01051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740217/aaaaapzl.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO MCCONAUGHY DEPARTURE, UNGER ASSIGNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US, (UNGER), (MCCONAUGHY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005